



NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

NEWS RELEASE

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**Governor Proclaims April 7-14 as *PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK*:
North Dakota Department of Health Encourages Residents to “START HERE”
At Their Local Public Health Units for a Wide Variety of Public Health Services**

BISMARCK, N.D. – Gov. Jack Dalrymple has proclaimed April 7-14, 2014, as Public Health Week in North Dakota to recognize the important services provided by public health departments and their employees to help ensure the safety and wellness of North Dakota citizens and communities.

The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) is committed to protecting the health of every North Dakotan through partnerships with 28 local public health units located across the state of North Dakota. Along with local public health units, the NDDoH works to prevent injuries, epidemics, and the spread of disease; promotes and encourages healthy behaviors; protects the environment; provides access to health services; ensures the safety of health, food and lodging facilities; and responds to disasters.

“Local public health units, whether affiliated with cities, counties, or regions, provide invaluable services to the residents of North Dakota,” explained Dr. Terry Dwelle, State Health Officer at the North Dakota Department of Health. “This weeklong observance of Public Health Week provides us an opportunity to highlight the important work of the people who work in public health in our communities,” Dwelle added.

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Visit the health department home page at www.ndhealth.gov.

Some of the services provided by public health departments around the state include immunizations for both children and adults, including immunization tracking and reporting; workplace wellness programs; tobacco prevention and cessation services; high blood pressure screening; maternal and child health home visits; school health programs; screening and treatment for tuberculosis; and coordination of planning and preparedness for public health emergencies, such as power outages and flooding. Contact your local public health department to find out which services they provide.

Public health departments employ doctors, nurses, managers, nutritionists, emergency preparedness staff, health educators, public information officers, and other health workers in order to provide comprehensive public health services in their communities. “These people do a great deal of work ‘behind the scenes’ and are not always recognized for their great service to the public. I encourage all North Dakotans to learn more about their local public health departments,” added Dr. Dwelle.

For more information, contact Karalee Harper, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.4517, or Kelly Nagel, Public Health Liaison, at 701.952.8195.

A text of the Proclamation follows.

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PROCLAMATION
PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK
APRIL 7-14, 2014

WHEREAS, North Dakota’s local public health units and the North Dakota Department of Health, along with numerous other organizations, are working to protect North Dakotans from environmental and workplace hazards, intentional and unintentional injuries, and violence; and

WHEREAS, unintentional injuries, such as motor vehicle crashes, poisonings and falls, rank among the leading causes of death for North Dakotans ages 1 to 44, while suicide is the second leading cause of death for North Dakotans ages 15 to 34; and

WHEREAS, many injuries and associated costs can be prevented by taking actions such as wearing a seatbelt, properly installing smoke alarms, correctly installing and using child safety seats, checking homes for hazards, wearing a helmet, storing cleaning supplies in locked cabinets and educating the community about violence towards vulnerable populations; and

WHEREAS, Public Health Week, with the theme “START HERE,” is observed to educate all North Dakotans about public health programs and services which benefit everyone, regardless of race, ethnicity or socioeconomic status, and are essential to a strong health system; and

WHEREAS, citizens of North Dakota are encouraged to:

REINFORCE healthy practices in their lives.

OBTAIN recommended health screenings, immunizations and treatments.

COMMIT to learning about the positive impact of public health departments.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim April 7-14, 2014, **PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK** in the state of North Dakota.

Jack Dalrymple
Governor

ATTEST:

Alvin A. Jaeger
Secretary of State